

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Summary

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 3-6 have been amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled. The amendments to the claims are supported in the specification. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cornish et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,464,985). Claim 1 has been amended. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended claim 1 recites, “at least two sets of field resistances (131a-131n, 137a-137n) which can be connected one set at a time, or in parallel, or in series, between the reflectron electrodes (123a-123n). This amended claim 1 includes the elements of claim 2, where the Examiner stated “Claims 2-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.” (Office action, page 2, lines 9-11).

Thus, since claims 2-6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims then

amended claim 1 should also be allowable. For the foregoing reasons, claim 1 should be allowable because this amended claim is equivalent to claims 2-6 that includes allowable subject matter not found in Cornish et al. Since claims 3-6 are dependent on independent claim 1, these dependent claims should also be allowable. Therefore, claims 3-6 are also not anticipated by Cornish et al. as claims dependent upon an allowable base claim. Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of claims 1 and 3-6 as amended.

Conclusion

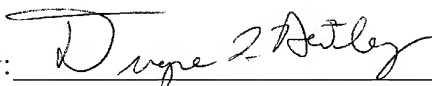
Pending claims 1 and 3-6 as amended are patentable. Therefore, in view of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly requested. If for any reason, however, the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Appl. No. 10/535,563
Amendment dated August 27, 2007
Reply to Office action of May 31, 2007

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences Corp.

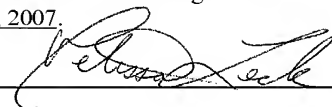
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